

SIMS JUNIOR HIGH

200 Sims Drive
Union, SC 29379

GRADES 7-8 Middle School

ENROLLMENT 620 Students

PRINCIPAL Cynthia D. James 864-429-1755

SUPERINTENDENT Thomas White 864-429-1740

BOARD CHAIR Jane Hammett 864-427-7081

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD

2004

ABSOLUTE RATING:

BELOW AVERAGE

Absolute Ratings of Middle Schools with Students like Ours

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Unsatisfactory
0	6	26	17	1

IMPROVEMENT RATING:

UNSATISFACTORY

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS:

NO

This school met 15 out of 21 objectives. The objectives included performance and participation of students in various groups and student attendance rate.

SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE GOAL

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WEBSITES AT:

WWW.MYSCSCHOOLS.COM

WWW.SCEOC.ORG

PERFORMANCE TRENDS OVER 4-YEAR PERIOD

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating	Adequate Yearly Progress
2001	Below Average	Average	N/A
2002	Below Average	Average	N/A
2003	Below Average	Unsatisfactory	No
2004	Below Average	Unsatisfactory	No

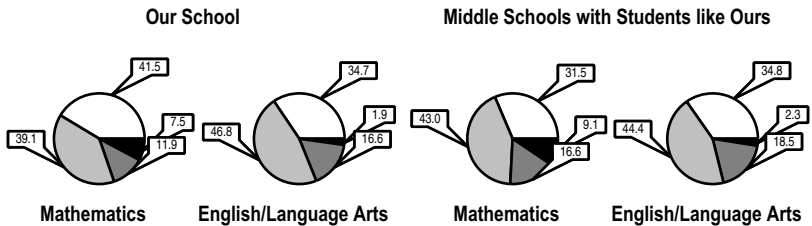
DEFINITIONS OF DISTRICT RATING TERMS





- Excellent - District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Good - District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Average - District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Below Average - District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Unsatisfactory - District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal

PERCENT OF STUDENT RECORDS MATCHED FOR PURPOSES OF COMPUTING IMPROVEMENT RATING

Percent of students tested in 2003-04 whose 2002-03 test scores were located.

96.6%

PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT)**Definition of Critical Terms**

	Advanced	Very high score; very well prepared to work at next grade level; exceeded expectations
	Proficient	Well prepared to work at next grade level; met expectations
	Basic	Met standards; minimally prepared, can go to next grade level
	Below Basic	Did not meet standards; must have an academic assistance plan; the local board policy determines progress to the next grade level

NOTE: Science and social studies are to be included in the 2005 school report card.

PACT PERFORMANCE BY GROUP

	Enrollment 1 st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Proficient and Advanced (adj.)	Performance Objective Met	Participation Objective Met
English/Language Arts - State Performance Objective = 17.6%									
All Students	593	96.6	33.1	47.9	17.0	2.0	25.2	Yes	Yes
Gender									
Male	281	96.8	39.9	47.1	12.2	0.8	17.1		
Female	312	96.5	27.0	48.6	21.3	3.0	32.4		
Racial/Ethnic Group									
White	340	97.4	22.9	51.1	22.6	3.4	33.6	Yes	Yes
African-American	249	95.6	47.2	44.1	8.7	0.0	13.1	Yes	Yes
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I/S	I/S
Hispanic	1	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
American Indian/Alaskan	2	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
Disability Status									
Not Disabled	484	97.7	29.3	49.0	19.3	2.4	29.5		
Disabled	109	91.7	51.0	42.9	6.1	0.0	5.1	No	No
Migrant Status									
Migrant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Non-migrant	593	96.6	33.1	47.9	17.0	2.0	25.2		
English Proficiency									
Limited English Proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I/S	I/S
Non-Limited English Proficient	593	96.6	33.1	47.9	17.0	2.0	25.2		
Socio-Economic Status									
Subsidized meals	375	95.2	43.0	47.0	9.2	0.9	14.3	No	Yes
Full-pay meals	212	99.5	16.3	49.8	30.1	3.8	43.5		

Mathematics - State Performance Objective = 15.5%									
All Students	593	96.0	39.7	40.3	12.2	7.7	28.8	Yes	Yes
Gender									
Male	281	96.1	44.1	36.0	11.9	8.0	27.2		
Female	312	95.8	35.9	44.1	12.5	7.5	30.2		
Racial/Ethnic Group									
White	340	96.8	27.7	43.4	16.6	12.3	39.4	Yes	Yes
African American	249	94.8	57.0	36.0	5.7	1.3	13.6	Yes	Yes
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I/S	I/S
Hispanic	1	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
American Indian/Alaskan	2	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
Disability Status									
Not Disabled	484	97.5	35.7	40.4	14.8	9.1	34.1		
Disabled	109	89.0	59.4	39.6	0.0	1.0	3.1	No	No
Migrant Status									
Migrant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Non-migrant	593	96.0	39.7	40.3	12.2	7.7	28.8		
English Proficiency									
Limited English Proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I/S	I/S
Non-Limited English Proficient	593	96.0	39.7	40.3	12.2	7.7	28.8		
Socio-Economic Status									
Subsidized meals	375	94.7	50.6	39.9	6.6	2.9	17.2	Yes	Yes
Full-pay meals	212	98.6	21.3	41.1	21.7	15.9	48.3		

DEFINITION OF ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS

As required by the United States Department of Education, adequate yearly progress specifies that the statewide target is met for All Students and for the following subgroups: Racial/Ethnic, Subsidized Meals, Disability, and Limited English Proficiency.

PACT PERFORMANCE BY GRADE LEVEL

		<i>Enrollment 1st Day of Testing</i>	<i>% Tested</i>	<i>% Below Basic</i>	<i>% Basic</i>	<i>% Proficient</i>	<i>% Advanced</i>	<i>% Proficient and Advanced</i>
English/Language Arts								
2003	Grade 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 7	281	95.7	38.0	46.3	14.9	0.8	15.7
	Grade 8	299	94.0	41.1	46.8	12.1	N/A	12.1
2004	Grade 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 7	320	97.5	30.3	49.2	18.6	2.0	20.5
	Grade 8	273	95.6	36.5	48.8	12.7	1.9	14.6

Mathematics								
2003	Grade 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 7	281	98.2	41.8	39.2	11.8	7.2	19.0
	Grade 8	299	97.7	42.9	46.2	8.8	2.2	11.0
2004	Grade 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 7	320	97.2	36.6	38.2	14.7	10.5	25.2
	Grade 8	273	94.5	44.0	41.6	9.3	5.1	14.4

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A Not Applicable **N/AV** Not Available **N/C** Not Collected **N/R** Not Reported **I/S** Insufficient Sample

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Middle School
Students (n= 620)				
Students enrolled in high school credit courses (grades 7 & 8)	9.5%	Down from 18.0%	13.5%	14.6%
Retention rate	10.1%	N/A	4.0%	3.0%
Attendance rate	94.9%	Up from 93.5%	95.4%	95.9%
Students with disabilities other than speech taking PACT (ELA) off grade level	15.0%		6.5%	5.7%
Students with disabilities other than speech taking PACT (Math) off grade level	11.6%		5.5%	5.3%
Eligible for gifted and talented	17.4%	Up from 12.4%	14.3%	14.3%
On academic plans	N/AV	N/AV	N/A	N/AV
On academic probation	N/AV	N/AV	N/A	N/AV
With disabilities other than speech	17.7%	Up from 17.3%	14.1%	13.9%
Older than usual for grade	6.1%	Up from 4.2%	4.9%	4.2%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent &/or criminal offenses	1.9%	Up from 0.0%	0.8%	0.9%
Annual dropout rate	0.0%	No change	0.0%	0.0%

Teachers (n= 40)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	60.0%	No change	44.6%	48.7%
Continuing contract teachers	87.5%	Down from 100.0%	82.7%	81.7%
Highly qualified teachers**	94.1%	N/A	92.6%	90.4%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	2.8%		5.0%	5.3%
Teachers returning from previous year	89.4%	Down from 92.7%	83.8%	85.1%
Teacher attendance rate	95.0%	Up from 92.5%	94.9%	94.8%
Average teacher salary	\$39,067	Down 0.7%	\$39,222	\$40,566
Prof. development days/teacher	11.7 days	Up from 10.3 days	11.1 days	11.0 days

School				
Principal's years at school	1.0	Up from 0.0	4.0	3.3
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	17.6 to 1	Down from 20.4 to 1	20.0 to 1	21.3 to 1
Prime instructional time	87.7%	Up from 85.2%	88.9%	89.3%
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$4,947	Down 0.9%	\$5,589	\$5,821
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries*	66.2%	Down from 69.2%	61.7%	61.8%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	Down from Excellent	Good	Good
Parents attending conferences	94.0%	Down from 99.0%	94.4%	95.0%
SACS accreditation	No	No change	Yes	Yes
Character development program	Good	N/A	Average	Good

* Prior year audited financial data are reported.

	Our District	State
Highly qualified teachers in low poverty schools**	N/A	92.0%
Highly qualified teachers in high poverty schools**	N/A	91.1%
	State Objective	Met State Objective
Highly qualified teachers in this school**	65.0%	Yes
Student attendance in this school	95.3%	No

**NOTE: The verification process was not completed for the year reported; therefore the count of highly qualified teachers may not be accurate.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A Not Applicable N/AV Not Available N/C Not Collected N/R Not Reported I/S Insufficient Sample

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Education Today, Independence Tomorrow - continued to be the motto at Sims Jr. High School. As the 2003-2004 school year began, faculty, staff, students, and parents were welcomed by many changes. Visual improvements, building modifications, landscaping additions and a personal greeting by someone in the new receptionist area all provided those coming to Sims with a feeling of warmth and pride. A new administration also provided changes for discipline, curriculum, instruction, parent involvement and community perception.

Our focus became the students and our students rose to the occasion. Twelve of our students were Junior Scholars, and three of our students earned Duke Tip Scholar status. Twenty-nine were presented with the Superintendent's Award. 100% of our Algebra 1 students passed the State End of Course (EOC) test. Our Drama Department produced two shows. Our VIP Gospel Group performed for the Union County's NAACP's Black History Program. The Academic Challenge Team placed 8th of 28 schools and 3rd of 11 school districts. Sims Jr. High cheerleaders placed 1st and 3rd in their competitions. Our students were also generous people placing first in the county for donations to the American Red Cross Penny Roll; achieving second place in the county for the Salvation Army Can Drive; raising over \$3000.00 for St. Jude's Math-A-Thon (the highest amount in the school history); and providing 47 boxes plus \$110.00 for Samaritan's Purse.

Our teachers and school were not to be outdone. We tout one National Board Certified teacher, Jennifer Tazerouti; one teacher now holding a Ph.D. - Dr. Gidgit Leonard; and the District Teacher of the Year - Melissa Gregory. Sims was proud to be the recipient of a Comprehensive School Reform grant totaling \$325,000.00 and we have begun implementing the Modern Red School House to enhance school reform. Two other grants provided our students with programs to boost self-esteem - Workforce in Action which provides Sims with assistance from the Urban League, Teen Connection, Parent University, and Youth Scouts; and School-Based Mental Health Pilot Program grant which provides mental health services on site. All three of these grants will continue into the coming school year.

Our goals for this year were to: 1) increase parent communication - parent/student orientation was held prior to the first day of school; progress reports were sent home to parents every two weeks; teachers made five positive parent contacts a week; the TIGER RAG, our school newsletter, went home monthly; parent conferences were held each semester. 2) increase school safety - discipline referrals for the 2003-04 school year were reduced by over 1000, and new walkie-talkies were purchased for added communication among the staff. 3) increase community perception of the school - we now have a High Performance Partnership with Midway Milliken; two parenting programs were held in the community; and several positive newspaper articles were published in the local paper. Each of these goals provides our students, parents, faculty, and staff with the opportunity to join us in the vision that Sims Jr. High School is becoming a school of excellence.

Cynthia D. James, Principal; Andrena Powell-Baker, SIC Chairperson

EVALUATIONS BY TEACHERS, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	36	273	129
Percent satisfied with learning environment	69.4%	56.6%	70.4%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	63.9%	55.2%	54.0%
Percent satisfied with home-school relations	25.0%	79.4%	54.0%

*Only students at the highest middle school grade level at this school and their parents were included.